

Administration of Barack Obama, 2011

Statement on the Situation in Cote d'Ivoire

April 5, 2011

I remain deeply concerned by the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. I strongly support the role that United Nations peacekeepers are playing as they enforce their mandate to protect civilians, and I welcome the efforts of French forces who are supporting that mission. Tragically, the violence that we are seeing could have been averted had Laurent Gbagbo respected the results of last year's Presidential election. To end this violence and prevent more bloodshed, former President Gbagbo must stand down immediately and direct those who are fighting on his behalf to lay down their arms. Every day that the fighting persists will bring more suffering and further delay the future of peace and prosperity that the people of Cote d'Ivoire deserve.

The people of Cote d'Ivoire have suffered too much throughout this period of unrest. The United States joins with the international community in our deep concern about reports of massacres in the western region of the country and the dangers faced by innocent civilians, particularly the most vulnerable. All parties must show restraint and respect the rights of the Ivorian people, and I welcome President Ouattara's pledge to ensure accountability for those who have carried out attacks against civilians. Meanwhile, the United States will continue to support a future in which Laurent Gbagbo stands down and President Ouattara and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire can move beyond this current crisis and serve all of the Ivorian people.

Categories: Statements by the President : Cote d'Ivoire situation.

Names: Gbagbo, Laurent; Ouattara, Alassane D.

Subjects: Cote d'Ivoire : Former President; Cote d'Ivoire : Human rights issues; Cote d'Ivoire : Political unrest and violence; Cote d'Ivoire : President; Cote d'Ivoire : Relations with U.S.; Cote d'Ivoire : United Nations peacekeeping operations; France : Cote d'Ivoire :: French military forces, deployment; France : Cote d'Ivoire :: Role; United Nations : Peacekeeping operations.

DCPD Number: DCPD201100224.